

SOLEC 2002

Overview

As Parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the governments of Canada and the United States are responsible for accurate reporting on the state of the Great Lakes. The State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference is a result of this commitment to reporting. With the establishment of a consistent suite of ecosystem indicators, the health of the Great Lakes basin can be objectively assessed. Regular reporting of a core set of indicators will promote more efficient and successful management as well as creating more accessible information for policy makers and the public.

The first two conferences in 1994 and 1996 developed a series of *ad hoc* indicators to evaluate the state of various Great Lakes ecosystem components. SOLEC 98 went beyond the previous SOLECs and presented a comprehensive list of ecosystem indicators for review and discussion. This suite of indicators objectively represents the state of the Lakes while establishing consistent biennial reporting. SOLEC 2000 began the actual assessment of the state of the Great Lakes using the suite of indicators.

SOLEC 2002 will focus on continuing to update and assess the state of the Great Lakes using the suite of indicators with an emphasis on the biological integrity.

SOLEC 2002

Steering Committee

SOLEC Steering Committee members represent a wide variety of agencies from around the Great Lakes:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Council of Great Lakes Industries
Environment Canada
Great Lakes Commission
Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Great Lakes United
International Joint Commission
Natural Resources Canada
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
Ontario Ministry of Environment
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
State Departments of the Environment
Tribes/First Nations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey

There are many other individuals and representatives from environmental groups, academia and local governments who have participated in the work necessary to develop this conference.

For additional information please contact:	
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SOLEC 2002

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference 2002

IMPLEMENTING INDICATORS



October 16, 17, & 18, 2002
Cleveland Convention Center
Cleveland, Ohio

Hosted by:

**Environment Canada
&
United States Environmental
Protection Agency**

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

An **evening reception** will take place at the Sheraton Cleveland City Center Hotel

Hors d'oeuvres & refreshments provided

Sponsored by Great Lakes Commission

DAY ONE - Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Cleveland Convention Center

10:00 PLENARY: Welcome & Introductions

State of the Great Lakes & Management Implications

State of the Great Lakes

- based on indicators

Management Implications

Lunch: Sheraton Cleveland City Center Hotel

Cleveland Convention Center

1:30 Network time OR

**1:30 Introduction to Indicators
(SOLEC indicator process review)**

**2:00 Concurrent Sessions:
In-depth discussions about the state of the Great Lakes.**

Participants must choose one of 6 workshops offered:

- ♦ Nearshore and open waters
- ♦ Coastal wetlands
- ♦ Land and land use
- ♦ Societal
- ♦ Human health
- ♦ Unbounded

5:00 Adjourn

DAY TWO - Thursday October 17, 2002

Cleveland Convention Center

8:30 PLENARY:

**Biological Integrity, Societal Responsibility
& Other New Indicator work**

Biological Integrity Work

Biological Integrity Case Studies

- Case studies on actual rehabilitation work designed to improve biological integrity.

**Societal Responsibility, Groundwater
and Other New Indicator work**

Lunch: Sheraton Cleveland City Center Hotel

Cleveland Convention Center

12:45 Concurrent Sessions:

- ♦ Biological Integrity
- ♦ Societal Responsibility
- ♦ Groundwater
- ♦ New indicator work
- ♦ Developing Indices

3:15 Concurrent Sessions:

Cross-cutting issues and a continuation of morning sessions

Cross-Cutting Issues – Implementing Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, Monitoring, Success Stories, and Environmental Trends Data.

5:15 Adjourn

Reception: Sheraton Cleveland City Center Hotel

6:00 Cash Bar Opens

7:30 Dinner Reception

- ♦ Recognition of Success Stories
- ♦ Cuyahoga River RAP presentaion

DAY THREE - Friday October 18, 2002

Cleveland Convention Center

8:30 PLENARY:

Lake Ecosystem Status Reports

Lake & Water Body presentations

- with a focus on biological integrity

Fishery reports

- for Lake Huron and Lake Superior

11:15 PLENARY:

Conference Wrap Up

Closing Remarks

12:15 SOLEC 2002 Adjourns

**Registration packages can be
picked up on:**

Tues. Oct.15, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, or

Wed. Oct.16, 7:30 am - 12 noon

**at the Cleveland Convention
Center Lakeside Pavillion.**

**For further information on SOLEC visit
www.binational.net**